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Torrance, California  
May 15, 1945

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, May 15, 1945 at 8:00 P.M.

Mayor Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: Gucci.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the Labor Herald, C.I.O. Newspaper, signed by Wm. Weintraub, advising that the Labor Herald is planning to publish a special supplement covering the important decisions at the United Nations Conference being held in San Francisco. It was advised that this special issue will be published approximately June 15, and will provide an interesting, valuable and complete digest of the work of the Conference.

It was further advised that cities, counties and municipalities throughout California are using the medium of this special issue to publish advertising suitable to the occasion, and expressed the hope that the City of Torrance will be represented in the edition.

Clerk Bartlett was asked to determine before the next meeting the kind of advertising desired and the cost of same.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the entire Council for study and action at the next meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Police and Fireman Association, requesting the City to grant a free license for two days showing of a circus May 29 and 30, 1945, profits to be shared with the Al Dean Show, location of circus to be at Carson and Abalone Streets, to be sponsored by the Torrance Police and Fireman Association, net proceeds to be given to the Tartar Town Canteen to be used for their building fund.

It was stated that the show is highly recommended and has been investigated by both the San Gabriel Police Department and the Lynwood Police Department.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, relative to the application of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company for a franchise for trackage to serve the Navy storage base.

It was stated that conferences had been held with Lieutenant-Commander Drake, in charge of construction for the Navy on this project, and Mr. R. D. Pierson, Regional Engineer for the Santa Fe, at which time the location of the tracks, possibilities of other locations, etc., had been discussed.

Engineer Jain continued to say that, according to Mr. Pierson, the proposed arrangement is the only feasible method of shuttling strings of cars into or out of the Navy project, as the law will not permit handling of switching directly onto the main line.

Engineer Jain recommended that, if a franchise for the proposed trackage is granted, consideration be given to the following items:

(1) An agreement made that no standing of cars will be permitted on this spur track.

(2) That a permanent, ballasted, heavy-type crossing be made at each of the crossings requested, with installation of heavy girder rail, crossing signs, paving, etc., at the expense of the Railway Company.

(3) That provision be made for approval of future crossings of those alleys and streets where no crossings now exist, when so desired by the City; such crossings to be constructed at the expense of the Railway Company.

(4) That fully automatic signals be installed at Arlington Avenue and that these be so located that they will conform to the proposed widening of Arlington Avenue, or that an agreement be made to bear the necessary cost of relocation at that time.

(5) That any proposed franchise or agreement for the installation of this spur track be contingent upon the renewal of the franchise for the main line track, which franchise expired in July, 1940.

After Clerk Bartlett completed reading of the above communication a lengthy discussion ensued, Engineer Jain advising that he had given some thought to the granting of a permit for the trackage to serve the Navy base instead of a franchise, inasmuch as the franchise for the main line track has expired.

Attorney McCall pointed out that, the time element being important in this matter, he felt a permit would be more acceptable than a franchise, as the franchise could not be effective until thirty days after publication of the ordinance granting same. He said all the conditions named by Mr. Jain could be made a part of the permit.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested having the City Engineer and City Attorney investigate further and determine whether or not a permit would be acceptable instead of a franchise.

Engineer Jain said that a franchise for a spur line would not serve any good purpose so long as they have no franchise for the main line, and, for this reason, he said a permit might be acceptable. He requested the members of the Council to go to the proposed location of the trackage and endeavor to offer suggestions as to how and where another location might be agreed upon. He said he thought the matter should be investigated further before taking action.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred back to the City Attorney and City Engineer for further investigation and recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Prior to the vote on the above motion, Mr. Jain appealed to the Council members to look over the location with him, as, he said, crossing on Arlington Avenue will block the only north and south street, and said he would like the Council to look into the matter further with the hope that someone can offer suggestions for a solution to the problem.

Mayor Tolson asked Engineer Jain to arrange a meeting for some time in the late afternoon for the purpose of inspecting the proposed trackage location.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$160.00, plus tax, be made for paint materials for the painting of the City Street and Park equipment. Councilman Gilbert, seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Gilbert moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$135.00 be made for green stain paint for the Municipal Ball Park fence. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Mayor Tolson moved that an appropriation of \$256.56 be made for fittings for the Water Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Engineer Jain reported that Lieutenant Gill of the Navy had called him regarding a recent request received by the City to close Oak Street, and had expressed the hope that the City would not close that street until Crenshaw Boulevard is placed in a condition where heavy trucks can use it, Oak Street being the only other access to the Navy project.

After a short discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request recently received relative to closing of Oak Street be referred to the Planning Commission for recommendation to the Council. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock read a communication from the Fire Chief, advising that the 1945 meeting of the California Fire Chiefs Conference, Southern Division, will be held May 26 and 27, 1945 in the Lebec Hotel, Lebec, California, and recommended that the Fire Chief, City Officials and their wives be authorized to attend.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Fire Chief McMaster be authorized to attend the meeting as requested, expenses paid. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Gilbert, Hitchcock, Powell and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Several oral protests were made at this time in connection with the railroad track on Madrid Street, Mr. A. L. Elder inquiring whether or not granting of a permit or franchise for the spur line as requested by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company would affect the City's decision to either renew the expired franchise or refuse to do so. He said the citizens in the vicinity of the railroad track had been hopeful of having the track re-routed after the war.

Mayor Tolson advised that granting of the franchise for the spur line would have no connection with the franchise for the main line track, which statement Mr. McCall substantiated. Mr. McCall added that if present thoughts are carried out, the railroad company will be granted a permit for the spur line and not a franchise.

Mrs. Leonard J. Young voiced an objection to the Madrid Street railroad track also, stating that she had hoped the track would some day be re-routed from Madrid Street to Madrona Street.

